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EXAMINER

BANTAMOI, ANTHONY

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/633,634	Applicant(s) CHOI ET AL.	
	Examiner ANTHONY BANTAMOI	Art Unit 2423	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 February 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 21-92 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 21-92 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 21-92 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 51 is objected to because of the following informalities: Claim 51 recites "the method of 50" instead of "the method of claim 50". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 21-29, 31-40, 42-43, 47, 52-60, 62-66, 69-72, 74-79, 82-84, and 89-92 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent Publication 2003/0149988 to Ellis et al. (Ellis), in view of US Patent Publication 2001/0010523 to Sezan et al. (Sezan).

Regarding claim 21, Ellis teaches receiving a request signal to access the video and/or audio program among the video and/or audio programs stored in the video and/or audio recording/reproducing apparatus ((figure 10, directory), & (figure 18d (by selecting the DIRECTORY link in the menu of figure 10, figure 18d results))).

In addition Ellis teaches displaying a program list comprising information regarding the video and/or audio programs and accessing the video and/or audio program based on a selection made in a display screen displaying the program list (figure 18c, (PRESS OK TO WATCH)).

Ellis fails to explicitly teach “displaying an image corresponding to each of the video and/or audio programs”.

However, the examiner maintains that it was well known in the art to provide “displaying an image corresponding to each of video and/or audio programs”, as taught by Sezan.

In a similar field of endeavor Sezan teaches displaying an image corresponding to each of video and/or audio programs (figure 5, (thumbnail view of videos including title in text)).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of Ellis by specifically providing “displaying an image corresponding to each of video and/or audio programs”, as taught by Sezan, for the purpose of effectively automating the management of audiovisual information, thereby eliminating the challenge faced by viewers who try to manually manage their viewing preference.

Regarding claim 22, Ellis is silent on the method, wherein the image corresponding to one of the video and/or audio programs is a still image.

However, the examiner maintains that it was well known in the art to provide “the method, wherein the image corresponding to one of the video and/or audio programs is a still image”, as taught by Sezan.

In a similar field of endeavor Sezan teaches the method, wherein the image corresponding to one of the video and/or audio programs is a still image (figure 5, (thumbnail view of videos including title in text)).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of Ellis by specifically providing “the method, wherein the image corresponding to one of the video and/or audio programs is a still image”, as taught by Sezan, for the purpose of effectively automating the management of audiovisual information, thereby eliminating the challenge faced by viewers who try to manually manage their viewing preference.

Regarding claim 23, Ellis is silent on the method, wherein the still image is an image extracted from a predetermined part of the corresponding video and/or audio program.

However, the examiner maintains that it was well known in the art to provide “the method, wherein the still image is an image extracted from a predetermined part of the corresponding video and/or audio program”, as taught by Sezan.

In a similar field of endeavor Sezan teaches the method, wherein the still image is an image extracted from a predetermined part of the corresponding video and/or audio program (figure 7, (Frame View)).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of Ellis by specifically providing “the method, wherein the still image is an image extracted from a predetermined part of the corresponding video and/or audio program”, as taught by Sezan, for the purpose of effectively automating the management of audiovisual information, thereby eliminating the challenge faced by viewers who try to manually manage their viewing preference.

Regarding claim 24, Ellis teaches the method, wherein the displaying of the program list comprises displaying a list of one or more of title information, recording date information and reproducing time information of the video and/or audio programs (figure 18d (Title and Recorded date information)).

Ellis fails to explicitly teach “displaying an image corresponding to image corresponding to the one of the video and/or audio programs”.

However, the examiner maintains that it was well known in the art to provide “displaying an image corresponding to image corresponding to the one of the video and/or audio programs”, as taught by Sezan.

In a similar field of endeavor Sezan displaying an image corresponding to image corresponding to the one of the video and/or audio programs (figure 5, (thumbnail view of videos including title in text)).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of Ellis by specifically providing “displaying an image corresponding to image corresponding to the one of the video and/or audio programs”, as taught by Sezan, for the purpose of effectively automating

Art Unit: 2423

the management of audiovisual information, thereby eliminating the challenge faced by viewers who try to manually manage their viewing preference.

Regarding claim 25, Ellis teaches the method, wherein the displaying of the program list comprises displaying a list of the video and/or audio programs (figure 18d).

Ellis fails to explicitly teach “displaying images corresponding to the respective video and/or audio programs of the list”.

However, the examiner maintains that it was well known in the art to provide “displaying images corresponding to respective video and/or audio programs of the list”, as taught by Sezan.

In a similar field of endeavor Sezan teaches displaying images corresponding to respective video and/or audio programs of the list (figure 5, (thumbnail view of videos including title in text)).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of Ellis by specifically providing “displaying images corresponding to respective video and/or audio programs of the list”, as taught by Sezan, for the purpose of effectively automating the management of audiovisual information, thereby eliminating the challenge faced by viewers who try to manually manage their viewing preference.

Regarding claim 26, Ellis teaches the method, wherein the displaying of the program list comprises displaying the information regarding the video and/or audio programs in a predetermined order (figure 18a, (oldest recorded is displayed before the latest recorded)).

Ellis fails to explicitly teach “displaying images corresponding to the respective video and/or audio programs”.

However, the examiner maintains that it was well known in the art to provide “displaying images corresponding to respective video and/or audio programs”, as taught by Sezan.

In a similar field of endeavor Sezan teaches displaying images corresponding to respective video and/or audio programs (figure 5, (thumbnail view of videos including title in text)).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of Ellis by specifically providing “displaying images corresponding to respective video and/or audio programs”, as taught by Sezan, for the purpose of effectively automating the management of audiovisual information, thereby eliminating the challenge faced by viewers who try to manually manage their viewing preference.

Regarding claim 27, Ellis teaches the method, wherein the information regarding the video and/or audio programs comprises one or more of title information, recording date information, and reproducing time information of each of the video and/or audio programs (figure 18d, (Title and Recorded date information)).

Regarding claim 28, Ellis is silent on the method, wherein the images are displayed according to the predetermined order of the information.

Ellis fails to explicitly teach “the method, wherein the images are displayed according to the predetermined order of the information”.

However, the examiner maintains that it was well known in the art to provide “the method, wherein the images are displayed according to the predetermined order of the information”, as taught by Sezan.

In a similar field of endeavor Sezan teaches the method, wherein the images are displayed according to the predetermined order of the information (figure 5, (thumbnail above, with the title below the image)).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of Ellis by specifically providing “the method, wherein the images are displayed according to the predetermined order of the information”, as taught by Sezan, for the purpose of effectively automating the management of audiovisual information, thereby eliminating the challenge faced by viewers who try to manually manage their viewing preference.

Regarding claim 29, Ellis the method, wherein the information regarding the video and/or audio programs comprises the recording date information of each of the video and/or audio programs, and the recording date information are displayed from the earliest recording date to the latest recording date (figure 18d, (oldest recorded is displayed before the latest recorded)).

Regarding claim 31, Ellis teaches the method, wherein the video and/or audio recording/reproducing apparatus is a combo-device comprising a storage device (figure 7, label 32), a recording/reproducing unit to record/reproduce a video and/or audio program with respect to the storage device, and an optical disc recording and/or

Art Unit: 2423

reproducing unit to record and/or reproduce a video and/or audio program with respect to a disc (Para. 0104, & figure 7, labels 28 & 31).

Regarding claim 32, Ellis teaches the method, wherein the video and/or audio recording/reproducing apparatus is provided to receive a video and/or audio program from a plurality of video and/or audio program sources (figure 7, label 29, & figure 2a, label 17(local server source and distribution facility with a remote server)).

Regarding claim 33, Ellis teaches the method, wherein the video and/or audio programs are stored in a storage device associated with the video recording/reproducing apparatus (figure 7, label 32).

Regarding claim 34, Ellis teaches the method, wherein the receiving of the request signal comprises receiving the request signal from an external input device (figure 7, label 40 & figure 8 (remote control device)).

Regarding claim 35, Ellis teaches the method, wherein the video and/or audio programs stored in the video and/or audio recording/reproducing apparatus are data compressed according to a predetermined compression format (Para. 0077, entire).

Regarding claim 36, Ellis teaches the method, wherein the predetermined compression format is an MPEG compression format (Para. 0077, entire).

Regarding claim 37, Ellis teaches receiving a request signal to display the information regarding the video and/or audio programs stored in the video and/or audio recording/reproducing apparatus (figure 10, directory, & figure 18d(by selecting the DIRECTORY link in the menu of figure 10, the EPG of figure 18d results)).

In addition Ellis teaches displaying the information comprising: one or more of title information, recording date information and reproducing time information of the video and/or audio programs (figure 18d, (TITLE, and recording date and time information)).

Ellis fails to explicitly teach “displaying an image corresponding to each of the video and/or audio programs”.

However, the examiner maintains that it was well known in the art to provide “displaying an image corresponding to each of the video and/or audio programs”, as taught by Sezan.

In a similar field of endeavor Sezan teaches displaying an image corresponding to each of the video and/or audio programs (figure 5, (thumbnail view of videos including title in text)).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of Ellis by specifically providing “displaying an image corresponding to each of the video and/or audio programs”, as taught by Sezan, for the purpose of effectively automating the management of audiovisual information, thereby eliminating the challenge faced by viewers who try to manually manage their viewing preference.

Regarding claim 38, Ellis teaches the method, wherein the displaying of the information comprises outputting a signal corresponding to the information by the video recording/reproducing apparatus to display the information on a display screen (figures 18b, & 18c).

Regarding claim 39, Ellis teaches the method, wherein the information is displayed so as to allow access to a video and/or audio program amongst the video and/or audio programs based on a selection made in the display screen (figure 18b, (PRESS OK TO WATCH)).

Regarding claim 40, Ellis teaches the method, wherein the displaying of the information comprises displaying one or more of the title information, recording date information and reproducing time information of each of the video and/or audio programs (figure 18d, entire).

Ellis fails to explicitly teach “displaying images corresponding to the respective video and/or audio programs”.

However, the examiner maintains that it was well known in the art to provide “displaying images corresponding to respective video and/or audio programs”, as taught by Sezan.

In a similar field of endeavor Sezan teaches displaying an image corresponding to each of video and/or audio programs (figure 5, (thumbnail view of videos including title in text)).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of Ellis by specifically providing “displaying an image corresponding to each of video and/or audio programs”, as taught by Sezan, for the purpose of effectively automating the management of audiovisual information, thereby eliminating the challenge faced by viewers who try to manually manage their viewing preference.

Regarding claim 42, Ellis is silent on the method, wherein the image corresponding to one of the video and/or audio programs is one of a still image and a motion image.

However, the examiner maintains that it was well known in the art to provide “the method, wherein the image corresponding to one of the video and/or audio programs is one of a still image and a motion image”, as taught by Sezan.

In a similar field of endeavor Sezan teaches the method, wherein the image corresponding to one of the video and/or audio programs is one of a still image and a motion image (figures 5, & 11 (thumbnail view and event view)).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of Ellis by specifically providing “the method, wherein the image corresponding to one of the video and/or audio programs is one of a still image and a motion image”, as taught by Sezan, for the purpose of effectively automating the management of audiovisual information, thereby eliminating the challenge faced by viewers who try to manually manage their viewing preference.

Regarding claim 43, Ellis teaches the method, wherein the video and/or audio programs stored in the video and/or audio recording/reproducing apparatus are data compressed according to an MPEG compression format (Para. 0077, entire).

Regarding claim 47, Ellis teaches receiving a request signal to display the information regarding the video and/or audio programs stored in the video and/or audio recording/reproducing apparatus (figure 10, directory, & figure 18d(by selecting the DIRECTORY link in the menu of figure 10, the EPG of figure 18d results)).

In addition Ellis teaches displaying the information comprising: one or more of title information, recording date information and reproducing time information of one of the video and/or audio programs (figure 18d, (TITLE, and recording date and time information)).

Ellis fails to explicitly teach “displaying images corresponding to the respective video and/or audio programs”.

However, the examiner maintains that it was well known in the art to provide “displaying images corresponding to respective video and/or audio programs”, as taught by Sezan.

In a similar field of endeavor Sezan teaches displaying images corresponding to respective video and/or audio programs (figure 5, (thumbnail view of videos including title in text)).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of Ellis by specifically providing “displaying images corresponding to respective video and/or audio programs”, as taught by Sezan, for the purpose of effectively automating the management of audiovisual information, thereby eliminating the challenge faced by viewers who try to manually manage their viewing preference.

Regarding claim 52, Ellis teaches the method, wherein the displaying of the information comprises displaying the one or more of title information, recording date information and reproducing time information of the one of the video and/or audio programs in response to a selection of a corresponding one of the images being

Art Unit: 2423

displayed (figure 10, DIRECTORY (clicking on the directory icon button results in to figure 18d a recorded program menu including title and recording date and time information)(directory icon meets “image”)).

Regarding claim 53, Ellis teaches an interface unit for receiving an input signal to access the video and/or audio program among video and/or audio programs stored in the storage device (figure 7, label 28 (STB)); and a main control unit for providing a program list comprising information regarding the video and/or audio programs and accessing the video and/or audio program based on a selection made in a display screen displaying the program list (figure 10, & 18b, (PRESS OK TO WATCH)).

Ellis fails to explicitly teach “displaying an image corresponding to each of the video and/or audio programs”.

However, the examiner maintains that it was well known in the art to provide “displaying an image corresponding to each of video and/or audio programs”, as taught by Sezan.

In a similar field of endeavor Sezan teaches displaying an image corresponding to each of video and/or audio programs (figure 5, (thumbnail view of videos including title in text)).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of Ellis by specifically providing “displaying an image corresponding to each of video and/or audio programs”, as taught by Sezan, for the purpose of effectively automating the management of audiovisual

Art Unit: 2423

information, thereby eliminating the challenge faced by viewers who try to manually manage their viewing preference.

Regarding claim 54, Ellis is silent on the apparatus, wherein the image corresponding to one of the video and/or audio programs is a still image.

However, the examiner maintains that it was well known in the art to provide “the apparatus, wherein the image corresponding to one of the video and/or audio programs is a still image”, as taught by Sezan.

In a similar field of endeavor Sezan teaches the apparatus, wherein the image corresponding to one of the video and/or audio programs is a still image (figure 5, (thumbnail view of videos including title in text)).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Ellis by specifically providing “the apparatus, wherein the image corresponding to one of the video and/or audio programs is a still image”, as taught by Sezan, for the purpose of effectively automating the management of audiovisual information, thereby eliminating the challenge faced by viewers who try to manually manage their viewing preference.

Regarding claim 55, Ellis is silent on the apparatus, wherein the still image is an image extracted from a predetermined part of the corresponding video and/or audio program.

However, the examiner maintains that it was well known in the art to provide “the apparatus, wherein the still image is an image extracted from a predetermined part of the corresponding video and/or audio program”, as taught by Sezan.

In a similar field of endeavor Sezan teaches the apparatus, wherein the still image is an image extracted from a predetermined part of the corresponding video and/or audio program (figure 7, (Frame View)).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Ellis by specifically providing “the apparatus, wherein the still image is an image extracted from a predetermined part of the corresponding video and/or audio program”, as taught by Sezan, for the purpose of effectively automating the management of audiovisual information, thereby eliminating the challenge faced by viewers who try to manually manage their viewing preference.

Regarding claim 56, Ellis teaches the apparatus, wherein the program list comprises a list of one or more of title information, recording date information and reproducing time information of the video and/or audio programs (figure 18d, (TITLE, and recording date and time information)).

Ellis fails to explicitly teach “displaying the image corresponding to the one of the video and/or audio programs”.

However, the examiner maintains that it was well known in the art to provide “displaying an image corresponding to the one of the video and/or audio programs”, as taught by Sezan.

In a similar field of endeavor Sezan teaches displaying an image corresponding to the one of the video and/or audio programs (figure 5, (thumbnail view of videos including title in text)).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Ellis by specifically providing “displaying an image corresponding to the one of the video and/or audio programs”, as taught by Sezan, for the purpose of effectively automating the management of audiovisual information, thereby eliminating the challenge faced by viewers who try to manually manage their viewing preference.

Regarding claim 57, Ellis teaches the apparatus, wherein the program list comprises the information regarding the video and/or audio programs in a predetermined (figure 18d, recorded program list).

Ellis fails to explicitly teach “displaying images corresponding to the respective video and/or audio programs”.

However, the examiner maintains that it was well known in the art to provide “displaying images corresponding to the respective video and/or audio programs”, as taught by Sezan.

In a similar field of endeavor Sezan teaches displaying images corresponding to the respective video and/or audio programs (figure 5, (thumbnail view of videos including title in text)).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Ellis by specifically providing “displaying images corresponding to the respective video and/or audio programs”, as taught by Sezan, for the purpose of effectively automating the management of

audiovisual information, thereby eliminating the challenge faced by viewers who try to manually manage their viewing preference.

Regarding claim 58, Ellis teaches the apparatus, wherein the information regarding the video and/or audio programs comprises one or more of title information, recording date information, and reproducing time information of each of the video and/or audio programs (figure 18d, (TITLE, and recording date and time information)).

Regarding claim 59, Ellis is silent on the apparatus, wherein the images are displayed according to the predetermined order of the information.

Ellis fails to explicitly teach “the apparatus, wherein the images are displayed according to the predetermined order of the information”.

However, the examiner maintains that it was well known in the art to provide “the apparatus, wherein the images are displayed according to the predetermined order of the information”, as taught by Sezan.

In a similar field of endeavor Sezan teaches the apparatus, wherein the images are displayed according to the predetermined order of the information (figure 5, (thumbnail above, with the title below the image)).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Ellis by specifically providing “the apparatus, wherein the images are displayed according to the predetermined order of the information”, as taught by Sezan, for the purpose of effectively automating the management of audiovisual information, thereby eliminating the challenge faced by viewers who try to manually manage their viewing preference.

Regarding claim 60, Ellis teaches the apparatus, wherein the information regarding the video and/or audio programs comprises the recording date information of each of the video and/or audio programs, and the recording date information are displayed from the earliest recording date to the latest recording date (figure 18a, (oldest recorded is displayed before the latest recorded)).

Regarding claim 62, Ellis teaches a video recording/reproducing apparatus comprising the apparatus, further comprising the storage device to store the video and/or audio programs (figure 7, label 31).

Regarding claim 63, Ellis teaches a video recording/reproducing apparatus (figure 7, label 28), wherein the video and/or audio recording/reproducing apparatus is a combo-device further comprising a recording/reproducing unit to record/reproduce a video and/or audio program with respect to the storage device, and an optical disc recording and/or reproducing unit to record and/or reproduce a video and/or audio program with respect to a disc (Para 0104, entire).

Regarding claim 64, Ellis teaches a video recording/reproducing apparatus, wherein the video and/or audio programs stored in the storage device are data compressed according to a predetermined compression format (Para. 0077, entire).

Regarding claim 65, Ellis teaches a video recording/reproducing apparatus, wherein the predetermined compression format is an MPEG compression format (Para. 0077, entire).

Regarding claim 66, Ellis teaches a video recording/reproducing apparatus, further comprising an input/output terminal unit for receiving a video and/or audio

Art Unit: 2423

program from a plurality of video and/or audio program sources (figure 7 label 29, & figure 2a, label 17).

Regarding claim 69, Ellis teaches an interface unit for receiving a request signal to display the information regarding the video and/or audio programs stored in the storage device (figure 7, label 31).

In addition Ellis teaches a main control unit (figure 7, label 28) for providing information comprising: one or more of title information, recording date information and reproducing time information of the video and/or audio programs (figure 10, & 18b, (PRESS OK TO WATCH)).

Ellis fails to explicitly teach “displaying an image corresponding to each of the video and/or audio programs”.

However, the examiner maintains that it was well known in the art to provide “displaying an image corresponding to each of video and/or audio programs”, as taught by Sezan.

In a similar field of endeavor Sezan teaches displaying an image corresponding to each of video and/or audio programs (figure 5, (thumbnail view of videos including title in text)).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Ellis by specifically providing “displaying an image corresponding to each of video and/or audio programs”, as taught by Sezan, for the purpose of effectively automating the management of

Art Unit: 2423

audiovisual information, thereby eliminating the challenge faced by viewers who try to manually manage their viewing preference.

Regarding claim 70, Ellis teaches the apparatus, wherein the main control unit outputs a signal corresponding to the information to display the information on a display screen (figure 7, label 28, & 36).

Regarding claim 71, Ellis teaches the apparatus, wherein the information is displayed so as to allow access to a video and/or audio program amongst the video and/or audio programs based on a selection made in the display screen (figure 18b, (PRESS OK TO WATCH)).

Regarding claim 72, Ellis teaches the apparatus, wherein the information comprises one or more of the title information, recording date information and reproducing time information of each of the video and/or audio programs, (figure 18d, recorded program list).

Ellis fails to explicitly teach “displaying images corresponding to the respective video and/or audio programs”.

However, the examiner maintains that it was well known in the art to provide “displaying images corresponding to respective video and/or audio programs”, as taught by Sezan.

In a similar field of endeavor Sezan teaches displaying images corresponding to respective video and/or audio programs (figure 5, (thumbnail view of videos including title in text)).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Ellis by specifically providing “displaying images corresponding to respective video and/or audio programs”, as taught by Sezan, for the purpose of effectively automating the management of audiovisual information, thereby eliminating the challenge faced by viewers who try to manually manage their viewing preference.

Regarding claim 74, Ellis is silent on an apparatus, wherein the image corresponding to one of the video and/or audio programs is one of a still image and a motion image.

However, the examiner maintains that it was well known in the art to provide “an apparatus, wherein the image corresponding to one of the video and/or audio programs is one of a still image and a motion image”, as taught by Sezan.

In a similar field of endeavor Sezan teaches an apparatus, wherein the image corresponding to one of the video and/or audio programs is one of a still image and a motion image (figures 5, & 11 (thumbnail view and event view)).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of Ellis by specifically providing “an apparatus, wherein the image corresponding to one of the video and/or audio programs is one of a still image and a motion image”, as taught by Sezan, for the purpose of effectively automating the management of audiovisual information, thereby eliminating the challenge faced by viewers who try to manually manage their viewing preference.

Regarding claim 75, Ellis teaches a video recording/reproducing apparatus comprising the apparatus, further comprising the storage device to store the video and/or audio programs (figure 7, label 31).

Regarding claim 76, Ellis teaches a video recording/reproducing apparatus (figure 7, label 28), wherein the video and/or audio recording/reproducing apparatus is a combo-device further comprising a recording/reproducing unit to record/reproduce a video and/or audio program with respect to the storage device, and an optical disc recording and/or reproducing unit to record and/or reproduce a video and/or audio program with respect to a disc (Para 0104, entire).

Regarding claim 77, Ellis teaches a video recording/reproducing apparatus, wherein the video and/or audio programs stored in the storage device are data compressed according to an MPEG compression format (Para. 0077).

Regarding claim 78, Ellis teaches a video recording/reproducing apparatus, further comprising an input/output terminal unit for receiving a video and/or audio program from a plurality of video and/or audio program sources (figure 7, label 29, & figure 2a, label 17).

Regarding claim 79, Ellis teaches a video recording/reproducing apparatus, wherein the storage device is a hard disc drive (figure 7, label 31).

Regarding claim 82, Ellis teaches an interface unit for receiving a request signal (figure 8, MENU) to display the information regarding the video and/or audio programs stored in the storage device (figure 7, label 31); and a main control unit (figure 8, label 28) for providing information comprising: one or more of title information, recording date

Art Unit: 2423

information and reproducing time information of one of the video and/or audio programs (figure 18d, entire).

Ellis is silent on displaying images corresponding to the respective video and/or audio programs.

However, the examiner maintains that it was well known in the art to provide “displaying images corresponding to the respective video and/or audio programs”, as taught by Sezan.

In a similar field of endeavor Sezan teaches displaying images corresponding to the respective video and/or audio programs (figures 5, & 11 (thumbnail view and event view)).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of Ellis by specifically providing “displaying images corresponding to the respective video and/or audio programs”, as taught by Sezan, for the purpose of effectively automating the management of audiovisual information, thereby eliminating the challenge faced by viewers who try to manually manage their viewing preference.

Regarding claim 83, Ellis teaches the apparatus, wherein the video and/or audio programs stored in the storage device are data compressed according to an MPEG compression format (Para. 0077, entire).

Regarding claim 84, Ellis teaches a video recording/reproducing apparatus comprising the apparatus, further comprising the storage device to store the video and/or audio programs (figure 7, label 31).

Regarding claim 89, Ellis teaches the video recording/reproducing apparatus, wherein the information comprising the one or more of title information, recording date information and reproducing time information of the one of the video and/or audio programs is displayed in response to a selection of a corresponding one of the images being displayed (figure 10, DIRECTORY (clicking on the directory icon button results in to figure 18d a recorded program menu including title and recording date and time information)(directory icon meets “image”)).

Regarding claim 90, Ellis is silent on the method, wherein information of a plurality of said video and/or audio programs are simultaneously displayed and where an image of each of said video and/or audio programs is displayed on the display screen.

However, the examiner maintains that it was well known in the art to provide “the method, wherein information of a plurality of said video and/or audio programs are simultaneously displayed and where an image of each of said video and/or audio programs is displayed on the display screen”, as taught by Sezan.

In a similar field of endeavor Sezan teaches the method, wherein information of a plurality of said video and/or audio programs are simultaneously displayed and where an image of each of said video and/or audio programs is displayed on the display screen (figure 5, (thumbnail view of videos including title in text)).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of Ellis by specifically providing “the method, wherein information of a plurality of said video and/or audio programs are

Art Unit: 2423

simultaneously displayed and where an image of each of said video and/or audio programs is displayed on the display screen”, as taught by Sezan, for the purpose of effectively automating the management of audiovisual information, thereby eliminating the challenge faced by viewers who try to manually manage their viewing preference.

Regarding claim 91, Ellis is silent on the method, wherein each of said images is a still image extracted from said video and/or audio programs.

However, the examiner maintains that it was well known in the art to provide “the method, wherein each of said images is a still image extracted from said video and/or audio programs”, as taught by Sezan.

In a similar field of endeavor Sezan teaches the method, wherein each of said images is a still image extracted from said video and/or audio programs (figure 7, (Frame View)).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of Ellis by specifically providing “the method, wherein each of said images is a still image extracted from said video and/or audio programs”, as taught by Sezan, for the purpose of effectively automating the management of audiovisual information, thereby eliminating the challenge faced by viewers who try to manually manage their viewing preference.

Regarding claim 92, Ellis teaches the apparatus, wherein the main control unit displays the program list comprising information of a plurality of video and/or audio programs (figure 18d, (TITLE, and recording date and time information)).

Ellis fails to explicitly teach “displaying a still image corresponding to each of the video and/or audio programs”.

However, the examiner maintains that it was well known in the art to provide “displaying a still image corresponding to each of the video and/or audio programs”, as taught by Sezan.

In a similar field of endeavor Sezan teaches displaying a still image corresponding to each of the video and/or audio programs (figure 5, (thumbnail view of videos including title in text)).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Ellis by specifically providing “displaying a still image corresponding to each of the video and/or audio programs”, as taught by Sezan, for the purpose of effectively automating the management of audiovisual information, thereby eliminating the challenge faced by viewers who try to manually manage their viewing preference.

5. Claims 30, 41, 61, and 73 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ellis, in view of Sezan, in view of US Patent 7,055,167 to Masters. (Masters).

Regarding claim 30, Ellis and Sezan are silent on the method, further comprising: receiving a request signal to edit the information corresponding to respective one of the video and/or audio programs; and displaying a user input screen to facilitate the editing of the information corresponding to the respective one of the video and/or audio programs.

However, the examiner maintains that it was well known in the art to provide “the method, further comprising: receiving a request signal to edit information corresponding to respective one of video and/or audio programs; and displaying a user input screen to facilitate the editing of the information corresponding to the respective one of the video and/or audio programs”, as taught by Masters.

In a similar field of endeavor Masters teaches on the method, further comprising: receiving a request signal to edit information corresponding to respective one of video and/or audio programs (column 8, 59-67, & column 9, 1-2).

In addition Masters teaches displaying a user input screen to facilitate the editing of the information corresponding to the respective one of the video and/or audio programs (figure 4 labels 42, 44, 46, 48, & 50).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of Ellis and Sezan by specifically providing “the method, further comprising: receiving a request signal to edit information corresponding to respective one of video and/or audio programs; and displaying a user input screen to facilitate the editing of the information corresponding to the respective one of the video and/or audio programs”, as taught by Masters, for the purpose of allowing user to edit live or recorded program information, thereby enabling user to update information when changes occur.

Regarding claim 41, Ellis and Sezan are silent on the method of, further comprising: receiving a request signal to edit the information corresponding to one of

Art Unit: 2423

the video and/or audio programs; and displaying a user input screen to facilitate the editing of the information corresponding to the one of the video and/or audio programs.

However, the examiner maintains that it was well known in the art to provide “the method of, further comprising: receiving a request signal to edit the information corresponding to one of the video and/or audio programs; and displaying a user input screen to facilitate the editing of the information corresponding to the one of the video and/or audio programs”, as taught by Masters.

In a similar field of endeavor Masters teaches on the method of, further comprising: receiving a request signal to edit the information corresponding to one of the video and/or audio programs (column 8, 59-67, & column 9, 1-2).

In addition Masters teaches displaying a user input screen to facilitate the editing of the information corresponding to the one of the video and/or audio programs (figure 4 labels 42, 44, 46, 48, & 50).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of Ellis and Sezan by specifically providing “the method of, further comprising: receiving a request signal to edit the information corresponding to one of the video and/or audio programs; and displaying a user input screen to facilitate the editing of the information corresponding to the one of the video and/or audio programs”, as taught by Masters, for the purpose of allowing user to edit live or recorded program information, thereby enabling user to update information when changes occur.

Regarding claim 61, Ellis is silent on the apparatus, wherein: the interface unit further receives a request signal to edit the information corresponding to respective one of the video and/or audio programs; and the main control unit further provides a user input screen to facilitate the editing of the information corresponding to the respective one of the video and/or audio programs.

However, the examiner maintains that it was well known in the art to provide “the apparatus, wherein: the interface unit further receives a request signal to edit the information corresponding to respective one of the video and/or audio programs; and the main control unit further provides a user input screen to facilitate the editing of the information corresponding to the respective one of the video and/or audio programs”, as taught by Masters.

In a similar field of endeavor Masters teaches on the apparatus, wherein: the interface unit further receives a request signal to edit the information corresponding to respective one of the video and/or audio programs (column 8, 59-67, & column 9, 1-2).

In addition Masters teaches the main control unit further provides a user input screen to facilitate the editing of the information corresponding to the respective one of the video and/or audio programs (figure 4 labels 42, 44, 46, 48, & 50).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of Ellis by specifically providing “the apparatus, wherein: the interface unit further receives a request signal to edit the information corresponding to respective one of the video and/or audio programs; and the main control unit further provides a user input screen to facilitate the editing of the

Art Unit: 2423

information corresponding to the respective one of the video and/or audio programs”, as taught by Masters, for the purpose of allowing user to edit live or recorded program information, thereby enabling user to update information when changes occur.

Regarding claim 73, Ellis, and Sezan are silent on an apparatus, wherein the interface unit further receives a request signal to edit the information corresponding to one of the video and/or audio programs; and the main control unit further provides a user input screen to facilitate the editing of the information corresponding to the one of the video and/or audio programs.

However, the examiner maintains that it was well known in the art to provide “an apparatus, wherein the interface unit further receives a request signal to edit the information corresponding to one of the video and/or audio programs; and the main control unit further provides a user input screen to facilitate the editing of the information corresponding to the one of the video and/or audio programs”, as taught by Masters.

In a similar field of endeavor Masters teaches on an apparatus, wherein the interface unit further receives a request signal to edit the information corresponding to one of the video and/or audio programs (column 8, 59-67, & column 9, 1-2).

In addition Masters teaches the main control unit further provides a user input screen to facilitate the editing of the information corresponding to the one of the video and/or audio programs (figure 4 labels 42, 44, 46, 48, & 50).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of Ellis, and Sezan by specifically providing “an apparatus, wherein the interface unit further receives a request signal to

Art Unit: 2423

edit the information corresponding to one of the video and/or audio programs; and the main control unit further provides a user input screen to facilitate the editing of the information corresponding to the one of the video and/or audio programs”, as taught by Masters, for the purpose of allowing user to edit live or recorded program information, thereby enabling user to update information when changes occur.

6. Claims 44-46, 48-51, 68, 80-81, and 85-88 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ellis, in view of Sezan, in view of US Patent Publication 2004/0078807 to Fries et al. (Fries).

Regarding claim 44, Ellis teaches the method, further comprising: receiving a request signal to display a menu to access a plurality of major functions pertaining to the video recording/reproducing apparatus (figure 10, DIRECTORY (pulls up menu of figure 18d which allows user to access recorded contents)).

Ellis, and Sezan fail to explicitly teach “displaying the menu comprising one or more of digital recorder, juke box player, and photo album submenus corresponding to the respective functions of the video recording/reproducing apparatus”.

However, the examiner maintains that it was well known in the art to provide “displaying a menu comprising one or more of digital recorder, juke box player, and photo album submenus corresponding to the respective functions of the video recording/reproducing apparatus”, as taught by Fries.

In a similar field of endeavor Fries teaches displaying a menu comprising one or more of digital recorder, juke box player, and photo album submenus corresponding to

Art Unit: 2423

the respective functions of the video recording/reproducing apparatus (figure 4, labels 410, & 444(DVR)).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of Ellis, and Sezan by specifically providing “displaying a menu comprising one or more of digital recorder, juke box player, and photo album submenus corresponding to the respective functions of the video recording/reproducing apparatus”, as taught by Fries, for the purpose of effectively managing of audiovisual information, thereby allowing for displaying information from diverse source in one organized menu.

Regarding claim 45, Ellis teaches the method of, wherein the request signal to display the information regarding video and/or audio programs corresponds to a selection of the digital recorder submenu (figure 10, (DIRECTORY is DVR sub menu)).

Regarding claim 46, Ellis teaches the method, wherein the video and/or audio programs are stored in a hard disc drive of the video and/or audio recording/reproducing apparatus (Para. 0104, & figure 7, label 31).

Regarding claim 48, Ellis teaches the method, wherein the video and/or audio programs stored in the video and/or audio recording/reproducing apparatus are data compressed according to an MPEG compression format (Para. 0077).

Regarding claim 49, Ellis teaches the method, further comprising: receiving a request signal to display a menu to access a plurality of major functions pertaining to the video recording/reproducing apparatus (figure 10, DIRECTORY (pulls up menu of figure 18d which allows user to access recorded contents)).

Ellis, and Sezan, fail to explicitly teach “displaying the menu comprising one or more of digital recorder, juke box player, and photo album submenus corresponding to the respective functions of the video recording/reproducing apparatus”.

However, the examiner maintains that it was well known in the art to provide “displaying the menu comprising one or more of digital recorder, juke box player, and photo album submenus corresponding to the respective functions of the video recording/reproducing apparatus”, as taught by Fries.

In a similar field of endeavor Fries teaches displaying the menu comprising one or more of digital recorder, juke box player, and photo album submenus corresponding to the respective functions of the video recording/reproducing apparatus (figure 4, labels 410, & 444(DVR)).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of Ellis, and Sezan by specifically providing “displaying the menu comprising one or more of digital recorder, juke box player, and photo album submenus corresponding to the respective functions of the video recording/reproducing apparatus”, as taught by Fries, for the purpose of effectively managing of audiovisual information, thereby allowing for displaying information from diverse source in one organized menu.

Regarding claim 50, Ellis teaches the method, wherein the request signal to display the information regarding video and/or audio programs corresponds to a selection of the digital recorder submenu (figure 10, (DIRECTORY is DVR sub menu)).

Regarding claim 51, Ellis teaches the method, wherein the video and/or audio programs are stored in a hard disc drive of the video and/or audio recording/reproducing apparatus (figure 7, label 31).

Regarding claim 68, Ellis teaches a video recording/reproducing apparatus, wherein: the interface unit further receives a menu request signal to access a plurality of major functions pertaining to the video recording/reproducing apparatus (figure 10, DIRECTORY (pulls up menu of figure 18d which allows user to access recorded contents)).

Ellis fail to explicitly teach “displaying the main control unit further provides a menu comprising one or more of digital recorder, juke box player, and photo album submenus corresponding to the respective functions of the video recording/reproducing apparatus”.

However, the examiner maintains that it was well known in the art to provide “displaying a main control unit further provides a menu comprising one or more of digital recorder, juke box player, and photo album submenus corresponding to the respective functions of the video recording/reproducing apparatus”, as taught by Fries.

In a similar field of endeavor Fries teaches displaying a main control unit further provides a menu comprising one or more of digital recorder, juke box player, and photo album submenus corresponding to the respective functions of the video recording/reproducing apparatus (figure 4, labels 410, & 444(DVR)).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Ellis by specifically providing

Art Unit: 2423

“displaying a main control unit further provides a menu comprising one or more of digital recorder, juke box player, and photo album submenus corresponding to the respective functions of the video recording/reproducing apparatus”, as taught by Fries, for the purpose of effectively managing of audiovisual information, thereby allowing for displaying information from diverse source in one organized menu.

Regarding claim 80, Ellis teaches the video recording/reproducing apparatus, wherein the interface unit further receives a request signal to display a menu to access a plurality of major functions pertaining to the video recording/reproducing apparatus (figure 10, DIRECTORY (pulls up menu of figure 18d which allows user to access recorded contents)).

Ellis, and Sezan fail to explicitly teach “the main control unit further provides the menu comprising one or more of digital recorder, juke box player, and photo album submenus corresponding to the respective functions of the video recording/reproducing apparatus”.

However, the examiner maintains that it was well known in the art to provide “the main control unit further provides the menu comprising one or more of digital recorder, juke box player, and photo album submenus corresponding to the respective functions of the video recording/reproducing apparatus”, as taught by Fries.

In a similar field of endeavor Fries teaches the main control unit further provides the menu comprising one or more of digital recorder, juke box player, and photo album submenus corresponding to the respective functions of the video recording/reproducing apparatus (figure 4, labels 410, & 444(DVR)).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of Ellis, and Sezan by specifically providing “the main control unit further provides the menu comprising one or more of digital recorder, juke box player, and photo album submenus corresponding to the respective functions of the video recording/reproducing apparatus”, as taught by Fries, for the purpose of effectively managing of audiovisual information, thereby allowing for displaying information from diverse source in one organized menu.

Regarding claim 81, Ellis teaches the video recording/reproducing apparatus, wherein the request signal to display the information regarding video and/or audio programs corresponds to a selection of the digital recorder submenu (figure 10, (DIRECTORY is DVR sub menu)).

Regarding claim 85, Ellis teaches the video recording/reproducing apparatus, wherein: the interface unit further receives a menu request signal to access a plurality of major functions pertaining to the video recording/reproducing apparatus (figure 10, DIRECTORY (pulls up the menu of figure 18d which allows user to access recorded contents)).

Ellis, and Sezan fail to explicitly teach “the main control unit further provides the menu comprising one or more of digital recorder, juke box player, and photo album submenus corresponding to the respective functions of the video recording/reproducing apparatus”.

However, the examiner maintains that it was well known in the art to provide “the main control unit further provides the menu comprising one or more of digital recorder,

juke box player, and photo album submenus corresponding to the respective functions of the video recording/reproducing apparatus”, as taught by Fries.

In a similar field of endeavor Fries teaches the main control unit further provides the menu comprising one or more of digital recorder, juke box player, and photo album submenus corresponding to the respective functions of the video recording/reproducing apparatus (figure 4, labels 410, & 444(DVR)).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of Ellis, and Sezan by specifically providing “the main control unit further provides the menu comprising one or more of digital recorder, juke box player, and photo album submenus corresponding to the respective functions of the video recording/reproducing apparatus”, as taught by Fries, for the purpose of effectively managing of audiovisual information, thereby allowing for displaying information from diverse source in one organized menu.

Regarding claim 86, Ellis teaches the video recording/reproducing apparatus, wherein the request signal to display the information regarding video and/or audio programs corresponds to a selection of the digital recorder submenu (figure 10, (DIRECTORY is DVR sub menu)).

Regarding claim 87, Ellis teaches the video recording/reproducing apparatus, wherein the storage device is a hard disc drive (figure 7, label 31).

Regarding claim 88, Ellis teaches the video recording/reproducing apparatus, further comprising an input/output terminal unit for receiving a video and/or audio

Art Unit: 2423

program from a plurality of video and/or audio program sources (figure 7, label 29, & figure 2a, label 17).

7. Claim 67 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ellis, in view of Sezan, in view of US Patent 5,850,218 to LaJoie et al. (LaJoie).

Regarding claim 67, Ellis teaches a STB (figure 7, label 28) which meets “a tuner for adjusting a receiving channel in order for a broadcast signal to be received through the input/output terminal unit”.

Ellis and Sezan are silent on a switching unit for selectively and mutually connecting input/output terminals of the input/output terminal unit connected to the switching unit; an input/output control unit for controlling the tuner and the switching unit; a video decoder for decoding and outputting a video signal received through one of the input/output terminal unit and the switching unit; an audio A/D converter for digitizing an analog audio signal which is selected via the switching unit; an encoder for encoding the analog audio signal from the audio A/D converter and video signal from the video decoder according to a predetermined compression format, and storing the encoded data in the storage device; a data management unit for managing data with respect to the storage device; an audio D/A converter for converting a digital audio signal output from a decoder into an analog audio signal and outputting the converted signal to the switching unit; and a video encoder for encoding a video signal output from the decoder and outputting the encoded video signal to the switching unit.

However, the examiner maintains that it was well known in the art to provide “switching unit for selectively and mutually connecting input/output terminals of the

Art Unit: 2423

input/output terminal unit connected to the switching unit; an input/output control unit for controlling the tuner and the switching unit; a video decoder for decoding and outputting a video signal received through one of the input/output terminal unit and the switching unit; an audio A/D converter for digitizing an analog audio signal which is selected via the switching unit; an encoder for encoding the analog audio signal from the audio A/D converter and video signal from the video decoder according to a predetermined compression format, and storing the encoded data in the storage device; a data management unit for managing data with respect to the storage device; an audio D/A converter for converting a digital audio signal output from a decoder into an analog audio signal and outputting the converted signal to the switching unit; and a video encoder for encoding a video signal output from the decoder and outputting the encoded video signal to the switching unit”, as taught by LaJoie.

In a similar field of endeavor, LaJoie teaches switching unit (figure 3, label 52) for selectively and mutually connecting input/output terminals of the input/output terminal unit connected to the switching unit (column 14, 58-62); an input/output control unit (figure 3, label 30) for controlling the tuner and the switching unit (column 13, 22-23); a video decoder (figure 3, label 38) for decoding and outputting a video signal received through one of the input/output terminal unit and the switching unit (column 14, 8-10, & figure 3, labels 38, & 52).

In addition LaJoie teaches an audio A/D converter (figure 3, label 34) for digitizing an analog audio signal which is selected via the switching unit (figure 3, labels 34, & 52); an encoder (figure 3, label 44) for encoding the analog audio signal

Art Unit: 2423

from the audio A/D converter (figure 3, labels 34, & 44) and Video signal from the video decoder (figure 3, label 38) according to a predetermined compression format (figure 3, label 33 (MPEG-2 decompressor), and storing the encoded data in the storage device (figure 3, label 32); a data management unit (figure 3, label 31) for managing data with respect to the storage device (figure 3, label 32); an audio D/A converter (figure 3, label 49) for converting a digital audio signal output from a decoder into an analog audio signal and outputting the converted signal to the switching unit (figure 3, labels, 49, & 52); and a video encoder (figure 3 label 44) for encoding a video signal output from the decoder (figure 3, label 38) and outputting the encoded video signal to the switching unit (figure 3, labels 44, & 52).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Ellis and Sezan by specifically providing “switching unit for selectively and mutually connecting input/output terminals of the input/output terminal unit connected to the switching unit; an input/output control unit for controlling the tuner and the switching unit; a video decoder for decoding and outputting a video signal received though one of the input/output terminal unit and the switching unit; an audio A/D converter for digitizing an analog audio signal which is selected via the switching unit; an encoder for encoding the analog audio signal from the audio A/D converter and video signal from the video decoder according to a predetermined compression format, and storing the encoded data in the storage device; a data management unit for managing data with respect to the storage device; an audio D/A converter for converting a digital audio signal output from a decoder into an analog

Art Unit: 2423

audio signal and outputting the converted signal to the switching unit; and a video encoder for encoding a video signal output from the decoder and outputting the encoded video signal to the switching unit”, as taught by LaJoie, for the purpose of formatting the outputs of the terminal thereby increasing its adaptability to connect with diverse type of devices in the home.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ANTHONY BANTAMOI whose telephone number is (571)270-3581. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 8-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Koenig can be reached on (571) 272 7296. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Anthony Bantamoi

Application/Control Number: 10/633,634
Art Unit: 2423

Page 43

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Art Unit 2423

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